

### **Amendments To Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. – 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a financial transaction request from an RF transaction device at an RF reader of a merchant system, wherein said financial transaction request comprises a transactions counted value that indicates a number of financial transactions performed with said RF transaction device; [[and]]

transmitting said financial transaction request to a transaction processor;

receiving a denial message from said transaction processor in response to said transactions counted value exceeding a maximum transactions value; and

denying, by said merchant system, said financial transaction request in response to said transactions counted value exceeding [[a]] said maximum transactions value.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein said financial transaction request further comprises at least one of an RF transaction device authentication tag, an account issuer routing number, or an encrypted transaction device identifier.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising transmitting an interrogation signal to said RF transaction device.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising disabling said RF transaction device in response to said transactions counted value exceeding said maximum transactions value.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising:  
presetting said transactions counted value to an initial count value;  
setting an increment value for said transactions counted value; and  
setting said maximum transactions value.

26. (Currently Amended) A radio frequency identification (RFID) reader comprising:  
a transponder for receiving a financial transaction request from an RF transaction device at said RFID reader associated with a merchant system, wherein said financial transaction request comprises a transactions counted value that indicates a number of financial transactions performed with said RF transaction device; and  
a network device for transmitting said financial transaction request to a transaction processor, receiving a denial message from said transaction processor in response to said transactions counted value exceeding a maximum transactions value, and denying said financial transaction request in response to said transactions counted value exceeding [[a]] said maximum transactions value.

27. (Previously Presented) The RFID reader of claim 26, further comprising:  
means for receiving at least one of a transaction device authentication tag or an encrypted transaction device identifier from said RF transaction device; and  
means for decrypting said encrypted transaction device identifier to authenticate said RF transaction device.

28. (Currently Amended) A transaction ~~processing entity~~ processor comprising:

means for receiving a financial transaction request at said transaction processor from an RF transaction reader, wherein said financial transaction request is initiated by an RF transaction device, and wherein said financial transaction request comprises a transactions counted value that indicates a number of financial transactions performed with said RF transaction device; and

means for denying said financial transaction request in response to said transactions counted value exceeding a maximum transactions value.

29. (Currently Amended) The transaction ~~processing entity~~ processor of claim 28, wherein said financial transaction request further comprises at least one of an RFID reader authentication tag, an RF transaction device authentication tag, or an encrypted transaction device identifier.

30. (Currently Amended) The transaction ~~processing entity~~ processor of claim 28, further comprising means for validating said RF transaction device in accordance with said RF transaction device authentication tag.

31. (Currently Amended) The transaction ~~processing entity~~ processor of claim 28, further comprising means for evaluating validity of said RFID reader in accordance with said RFID reader authentication tag.

32. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

transmitting a financial transaction request from a Radio Frequency (RF) transaction device to an RFID reader, wherein said financial transaction request comprises a transactions counted value that indicates a number of financial transactions performed with said RF transaction device, wherein said financial transaction request is transmitted to a transaction

processor, wherein said RFID reader receives a denial message from said transaction processor in response to said transactions counted value exceeding a maximum transactions value, and wherein said financial transaction request is denied in response to said transactions counted value exceeding [[a]] said maximum transactions value; and

incrementing, at said RF transaction device, said transaction counted value.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising incrementing said transactions counted value by a predetermined value.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising incrementing said transactions counted value in response to at least one of receiving an interrogation signal, transmitting data, or completing an RF transaction.

35. (Currently Amended) A Radio Frequency (RF) transaction device comprising:

means for transmitting a financial transaction request from said RF transaction device to an RF Identification (RFID) reader, said financial transaction request comprising a transactions counted value that indicates a number of financial transactions performed with said RF transaction device, wherein said financial transaction request is transmitted to a transaction processor, wherein said RFID reader receives a denial message from said transaction processor in response to said transactions counted value exceeding a maximum transactions value, wherein said financial transaction request is denied in response to said transactions counted value exceeding [[a]] said maximum transactions value; and

means for incrementing, at said RF transaction device, said transactions counted value.